



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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## *LEEC eNewsletter*

### LEEC NEWS

#### **LEEC BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

The City of Monroe presented LEEC board member Dean Blackett with a Nashall Harris Humanitarian Award at its 36th annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on January 14, 2015. Blackett is an industry representative on the LEEC board who is dedicated to improving educational opportunities for students at rural and underprivileged schools in his area of Northeast Louisiana and all around the state. Please join us in congratulating Dean on this well-deserved honor.

#### **SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION REMINDER**

The 2015 Environmental Education State Symposium is just around the corner. The February 27-28, 2015 event will be packed full of informative, hands-on sessions aimed to help formal and non-formal educators incorporate the latest in environmental education information and techniques into their curriculum. Attendees have the opportunity to attend one of five day-long short courses on Friday Feb. 27, and choose from among a variety of hour-long concurrent sessions on Saturday the 28th. Highlights include a Friday bug-tasting mixer sponsored by the Audubon Institute, door prizes, exhibitors with special emphasis on environmental education materials, networking with other environmental educators, and updates on statewide environmental education programs. Attendees can earn up to 12 CLUs.

Don't wait too late. Early bird registration is just \$35 for the conference and \$10 for the short course. Find more information at the symposium website, <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-environmental-education-symposium>.

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

#### **TREE PLANTING EVENT IN JEAN LAFITTE**

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) is looking for volunteers to participate in a two-day Cypress Forest Restoration project at Jean Lafitte National Park on January 29th and 30th. Volunteers will plant nearly 800 trees along the spoil banks of Bayou Segnette. These native trees will help combat the invasive Chinese tallow tree and over time, will produce new nesting habitat for Bald Eagles.

Register [here](#) for the January 29 event and [here](#) for the January 30 event.



Photo courtesy CRCL

## **STUDENT OPPORTUNITY**

### ***JASON LEARNING NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES FOR AUTOMOBILE RECYCLING AWARENESS CONTEST***

Students in grades 5–12 are invited to participate in a national recycling awareness contest sponsored by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) and JASON Learning. The theme of this year's contest is automobile recycling. Students can create an original video or poster in the style of an infomercial or awareness campaign to illustrate the process and challenges that go along with recycling your chosen commodity or commodities into a reusable form.

The contest is open to all students living in the United States and enrolled in grades 5–12 during the 2014–2015 school year. Students can enter the contest as individuals or as a team of up to four individuals. Each individual or team can submit either a video or a poster to the contest. One video and one poster will be selected as a finalist from each of two grade bands: 5–8 and 9–12. Two overall grand-prize winners will be selected — one from the two video finalists and one from two poster finalists. JASON and ISRI may also acknowledge up to two additional "honorable mentions" in each media in each grade band.

All entries must be submitted by February 2, 2015, and winners will be selected by March 1, 2015. Note that you will also need to complete the Permission Form before submitting your entry. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian, and you will be asked to upload the completed form immediately after you upload your contest entry file. You can scan and upload a PDF of the signed permission form, or you can submit a digital photo of the signed form. If two or more students are collaborating on an entry, each student will need to submit a completed permission form.

Submit entries at <http://www.jason.org/contest/2014-2015-automobile-recycling-awareness-contest>.

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### ***2015 MARINE DEBRIS CALENDAR AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD***

Each year, the NOAA Marine Debris Program sponsors a nationwide "Keep the Sea Free of Debris" art contest in an effort to get children thinking about how they can keep debris out of the ocean. Kindergarten through 8th graders from all over the country submit artwork depicting the marine debris problem, and the program selects 13 pieces of work to display in a calendar.

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/educate-others/2015-marine-debris-calendar-available-download>

### ***ARTICLE CITES STUDY ABOUT DEADLINESS OF MARINE DEBRIS***

We all know that marine debris is unsightly and dangerous to humans and sea-dwelling creatures alike, but [this article on the Nature World New website](#) reveals just how deadly ocean-bound waste is to cetacean species. It's a heartbreaking but interesting read.

VENISE ORTEGO *Coordinator*  
(337) 948-0255 [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov)

THOMAS GRESHAM *Assistant Coordinator*  
(225) 765-0124 [tgresham@wlf.la.gov](mailto:tgresham@wlf.la.gov)

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